

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 20-37 allowed.

As to claims 20-31, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method for inspecting a surface of a three-dimensional body said method comprising the steps of taking pictures of areas to be inspected on the surface during movement of the at least one camera relative to the surface of the three-dimensional body wherein the at least one camera, the at least one illumination device and the surface are brought into several respective different defined geometric relationships with each other during inspection of each of the area to be inspected on the surface, at least for a time period required to take one of the pictures, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 20.

As to claims 32-37, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a system for inspecting a surface of a three-dimensional body said system comprising at least one displacement device that moves the at least one camera and/or the at least one illumination device relative to the three-dimensional body, wherein the at least one camera takes the pictures of the object to be inspected during movement of the at least one camera relative to the three-dimensional body and a control device for bringing the at least one camera, the at least one illumination device and the surface are brought into plural respective different defined geometric relationships with each other during inspection of each of the area to be inspected on the surface, at least for a time period required to take one of the pictures, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda H Merlino whose telephone number is 571-272-2421. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Amanda H Merlino /A. H. M./
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
September 21, 2009

/Gregory J. Toatley, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 2877
2 October 2009